



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## INVESTING IN WEST MICHIGAN

The Whitmer-Gilchrist administration has invested in every region of Michigan to deliver on the kitchen-table issues that matter most to families, communities, and small businesses.

### Growing West Michigan's economy

- Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) investments:
  - Over \$120 million invested to support over 220 Business Development projects projected to create nearly 5,000 jobs and leverage over \$2 billion in private investment.
  - \$64 million to support nearly 60 Community Development projects, leveraging more than \$470 million in private investment and reactivating more than 400,000 square feet of public space.
- Delivered \$30 million to support nearly 3,000 businesses and retain more than 30,000 jobs through COVID, with 52% of relief going to geographically disadvantaged areas.

### Empowering workers in West Michigan

- 12,361 Michigan Reconnect applicants in West Michigan are on tuition-free paths to higher education or skills training.
- 13,131 Futures for Frontliners in West Michigan who served on the frontlines of the pandemic have been accepted to get on tuition-free paths to receiving a diploma or attending community college.
- Created 2,953 new registered apprenticeships with a focus on supporting opportunities for underrepresented populations: veterans, women, people of color, those with disabilities, and young Michiganders.
- COVID relief:
  - Saved 14,383 jobs with Workshare program which allowed employees to collect unemployment benefit while working part-time.
  - Set up four virtual job fairs connecting 118 employers to over 370 job-seekers.

### Fixing roads, bridges, pipes, and parks in West Michigan

- Fixed 1,876 lane miles of road and 105 bridges, supporting 5,580 jobs.
- Invested \$15.9 million to upgrade or repair state and local parks.
- Invested \$104 Million into water infrastructure in West Michigan to upgrade sewer systems, replace lead pipes, and protect safe drinking water for families.

### Investing in students and schools in West Michigan

- Increased per-pupil funding by 16%, or \$1,279, for every student in West Michigan since taking office.
- Expanded access to free preschool through the Great Start Readiness Program to 5,911 kids in West Michigan.
- Raised childcare funding per kid in West Michigan by 155%.

### Building housing and keeping families in their homes in West Michigan

- Constructed 2,611 affordable, attainable housing units.
- Helped 1,423 families with mortgages and down payments.
- Kept 15,555 families in their homes with rental assistance.
- Delivered emergency rental assistance to 20,849 families.

### Proposals to cut taxes for seniors and working families in West Michigan

- Governor Whitmer's proposal to roll back the retirement tax would save 62,100 families in West Michigan an average of \$1,000 a year, putting \$62.1 million back in people's pockets and the local economy.
- Governor Whitmer's proposal to triple Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit would deliver an average combined tax refund of \$3,000 to 96,600 working families in West Michigan, putting \$289.8 million in people's pockets and the local economy.

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